

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 24 are amended and claims 2 and 25 are cancelled, leaving claims 1, 3-24 and 26-29 pending with claims 1 and 24 being independent. No new matter has been added.

### ***Examiner Interview***

Applicants appreciate the interview granted by the Examiner. In the interview, the Examiner stated that if Applicants amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 2, amended claim 1 to delete “one of” after the word concatenating in line 5, and further defined concatenating, the pending claims would be allowable over the cited prior art. The claims have been amended as suggested.

### ***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)***

Claims 1-23, 26, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lekutai in view of Hiroyuri et al., (JP 2002-041081).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. In particular, claim 1 now recites a speech recognition dictionary creation device for creating a speech recognition dictionary, the device comprising an abbreviated word generation unit operable to generate an abbreviated word of a recognition object that includes constituent words, based on a generation rule, out of candidates including the abbreviated word of the recognition object generated by concatenating i) the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided and which are not adjacent each other, ii) parts of the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided, and iii) a modifier and a modified word, a word division unit operable to divide the recognition object into the constituent words, and a syllable string generation unit operable to generate syllable strings of each constituent word in the constituent words based on readings of the divided recognition object, wherein the abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate the abbreviated word including one or more syllables by extracting one or more syllables from the syllable strings of the constituent words and

concatenating the extracted one or more syllables based on the syllable strings of the constituent words generated by the syllable string generation unit.

As discussed with the Examiner, claim 1 is now allowable over the cited prior art. In particular, as discussed with the Examiner, Hiroyuki discloses a voice recognition apparatus that generates one or more utterance units to register the utterance units as recognized vocabulary, based on all the division candidates and all the reading candidates obtained from character string information, so that the voice recognition apparatus can correctly recognize an utterance of any partial character string in a character string.

Such a device is distinct from claim 1 of the present invention, which generates an abbreviated word of the recognition object by concatenating i) constituent words into which the recognition object is divided and which are not adjacent each other, ii) part of the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided, and iii) a modifier and a modified word. As discussed above, Hiroyuki generates all the division candidates, with respect to each word with the character string information divided, based on the number of the words from the second word. In other words, Hiroyuki extracts a part of the character string from the character string information, and does not generate an abbreviated word of the recognition object by concatenating i) the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided and which are not adjacent each other, ii) parts of the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided, and iii) a modifier and a modified word.

Moreover, claim 1 now recites the subject matter of claim 2. Additionally, concatenating has been further defined as including i) the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided and which are not adjacent each other, ii) parts of the constituent words into which the recognition object is divided, and iii) a modifier and a modified word. The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a speech recognition dictionary creation device having such a combination of elements.

Claims 24, 25 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lekutai (US 2005/0240391).

Applicants submit that each of these claims is allowable for similar reasons to those set forth above. In particular, amended independent claim 24 recites a speech recognition dictionary

creation method comprising generating, with use of the abbreviated word generation unit, an abbreviated word of a recognition object that includes a plurality of constituent words based on a rule that takes into account ease of pronunciation and by concatenating i) the plurality of constituent words into which the recognition object is divided and which are not adjacent each other, ii) parts of the plurality of constituent words into which the recognition object is divided, and iii) a modifier and a modified word, registering, into the speech recognition dictionary, the generated abbreviated word, using the vocabulary storage unit, together with the recognition object, dividing the recognition object into the plurality of constituent words using a word division unit, and generating syllable strings of each constituent word in the plurality of constituent words based on readings of the divided recognition object using a syllable string generation unit, wherein the abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate the abbreviated word including one or more syllables by extracting one or more syllables from the syllable strings of the plurality of constituent words and concatenating the extracted one or more syllables based on the syllable strings of the constituent words generated by the syllable string generation unit.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a method.

### ***Conclusion***

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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